

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, ID

SUBJECT: VISIT OF INDONESIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIAL TO US

REF: JAKARTA 11278 AND JAKARTA 6493

1. US CUSTOMS HAS COMPLETED INVESTIGATION OF REPORTED INCIDENT CONCERNING MUDZRIMI RAILAN, CHIEF OF JAKARTA CUSTOMS. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR POINTS IN THE CUSTOMS REPORT:

A. ON MAY 20, STATE PROTOCOL BY LETTER REQUESTED TREASURY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL CUSTOMS COURTESIES FOR MUDZRIMI RAILAN UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. LETTER UNFORTUNATELY INDICATED RAILAN WAS ARRIVING ON PAN AMERICAN (NOT AMERICAN AIRLINES) FLIGHT 212. THE CUSTOMS OFFICE IN NEW YORK WAS ALERTED, BUT NOT THE OFFICE IN TORONTO.

B. A CANVASS OF VIRTUALLY ALL SUPERVISORS AND INSPECTORS IN TORONTO WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH RAILAN HAS REVEALED NO INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT. NO INSPECTORS CONTACTED RECOLLECT MEETING RAILAN. HOWEVER, TWO OF THE INSPECTORS WHO WERE WORKING ON THAT DAY HAVE

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BEEN TRANSFERRED AND ONE IS ON HOME LEAVE.

C. US CUSTOMS CANNOT EXPLAIN THE DELAY IN THE HANDLING OF RAILAN'S LUGGAGE. THE TORONTO OFFICE, BEING ON FOREIGN SOIL, HAS NO AUTHORITY TO SEIZE OR DETAIN BAGGAGE OR MERCHANDISE. CUSTOMS SUSPECTS THAT AS RAILAN WAS A CONNECTING PASSENGER INTO TORONTO, HIS BAGGAGE MAY HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY ONE OF THE AIRLINES.

D. CUSTOMS INDICATED THAT ALL INSPECTORS ARE UNDER STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO FILE REPORTS DETAILING ANY INCIDENT WHICH MAY BE A SOURCE OF FUTURE COMPLAINT. THERE IS NO REPORT CONCERNING RAILAN. CUSTOMS THEREFORE BELIEVE RAILAN RECEIVED NORMAL TREATMENT. THEY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS TRAVELING AT A TIME OF ESPECIALLY HEAVY TRAFFIC, WHICH COULD EXPLAIN THE DELAYS ENCOUNTERED.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO PASS ABOVE TO RAILAN, ALONG WITH APPROPRIATE APOLOGIES. WE WILL POUCH TO YOU CUSTOM'S REPORT. ROBINSON

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